

CCARC, Inc.

950 Slater Road New Britain, CT

860-229-6665

## **Testimony in Opposition of Governor's Budget**

Good evening, Senator Walker, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Kane and Representative Ziobron and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Anne Ruwet, CEO of CCARC, Inc. in New Britain and I am here to oppose the Governor's proposed budget that would cut vital programs and services by over \$408 million (or 72% of the total cuts of \$569.5 million for SFY17) across the 14 state agencies that partner with nonprofit providers.

CCARC, Inc. has been providing services in the Greater New Britain community to people with intellectual disabilities since 1952. The proposed cuts would be devastating to our services that are inclusive of over 200 people and their families. It is anticipated that it would require a 15% cut to our services which currently has been underfunded and undervalued by the state. As a provider that has a mission to "make dreams happen" I can confidently say that many dreams would never be realized should these cuts occur. We have been creative, resilient and efficient with the revenue from our contracts with the state and have reached out to our community partners for donations and grants. With no increase in almost a decade it is not reasonable or fair to balance a budget off the backs of the most vulnerable citizens of the state.

Together with self advocates, volunteers and staff we have tried to educate and communicate the value of our services to the Legislative and Executive branches and I must say you have been listening and are compassionate for the work we do but unfortunately without recognizing what it actually costs to provide these services. I must plead with you on behalf of the people, families and staff we support and work with on a day to day basis to oppose the Governor's proposed budget. I thank you in advance for your support!